Considerations for Future Lists

As new ideas are introduced and in the general course of progress, it is natural for evaluation and reporting of water quality conditions to evolve. Since the introduction of the Integrated Report (IR) format in 2002, methods for evaluating the recreation use, the human health use (via fish contaminants) and public drinking water supply use have been systematically added to the traditional aquatic life use reporting.

This section identifies future reporting possibilities and the status of each. The potential future changes include reporting on more types of waters (wetlands, inland lakes) or reporting on specific pollutants of interest (mercury).

I1. Wetlands

Ohio EPA's IR provides information on the overall condition of Ohio's water resources and identifies those waters that are not currently meeting water quality goals (Ohio EPA, 2016). It fulfills the requirements under the Clean Water Act (CWA) to report biennially on the current condition of Ohio's regulated waters [305(b) report] and to provide a list of impaired waters [303(d) list]. Given the sheer number of National Wetland Inventory [U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, 2006-2007 (NWI)] mapped wetlands in Ohio (n = 134,736), it is not feasible to identify individual wetlands that are impaired as part of the 303(d) list, nor is it feasible to assess every individual wetland portrayed on the NWI mapping. Given the historic losses of wetlands in the state (Dahl, 1990) it would be problematic to attempt to list any of the remaining wetlands as impaired without giving consideration for the wetlands which have been eliminated from the landscape. The 2012 version of Ohio's IR (Ohio EPA, 2012) discussed a plan for incorporating wetland information into future reports, as general 305(b) information by using five primary items:

- identify historic wetland resources using Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) digital soil survey data (USDA, 2012);
- identify existing wetland resources using NWI data (U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, 2006-2007);
- perform a preliminary off-site wetland condition assessment using a Level 1 GIS tool;
- include information on past wetland field assessments within each 12-digit hydrologic unit code (HUC) [Seaber, Kapinos and Knapp, (1987)] watershed; and
- describe and summarize watershed specific field assessment work.

The 2014 report (Ohio EPA, 2014) was Ohio EPA's first attempt at implementing this plan. In 2013, Ohio EPA's Wetland Ecology Group (WEG) completed a study focusing on the inclusion of wetland information in the Total Maximum Daily Load (TMDL) process on the Middle Scioto watershed (Gara, Harcarik and Schumacher, 2013). This study provided the framework for incorporating wetland information into this reporting process. The focus of the study was twofold: 1) conduct a probabilistic survey of wetland condition for a current TMDL project in central Ohio using Level 2 [Ohio Rapid Assessment Method for Wetlands (ORAM)(Mack, 2001)] and Level 3 [Vegetation Index of Biotic Integrity (VIBI)(Mack, 2004; Mack and Gara, 2015)] assessment tools; and 2) develop a Geographic Information System (GIS)-based Level 1 assessment tool to estimate wetland condition within this survey area. The results of the Level 1 assessment were then compared to those obtained using the more detailed Level 2 and Level 3 field assessments. The Level 1 tool that was developed for the Middle Scioto TMDL study differed slightly from the proposed tool included in the 2012 IR (Ohio EPA, 2012). This updated assessment methodology is based on close statistical relationships between the individual metrics and detailed field assessments previously conducted by the WEG. For this reason, the updated Level 1 tool was used when characterizing wetland condition within each of Ohio's HUC12 watersheds. Additional information regarding the Middle Scioto TMDL and the Statewide Level 1 assessment data can be found in previous versions of the IR (Ohio EPA 2012; Ohio EPA, 2014; Ohio EPA, 2016).

I1.1 Documented High-Quality Wetlands

Ohio EPA's section 401 water quality certification and isolated wetland permitting section requires applicants that seek to discharge dredged or fill material into wetlands to coordinate with the Ohio Department of Natural Resources' (ODNR) natural heritage database (NHD) to determine whether documented high-quality wetlands, or known occurrences of rare, threatened or endangered species are present in and around proposed impact sites. Many wetlands are identified in the current version of the NHD; however, the information currently available has not been updated in more than 10 years and is primarily based on the best professional judgement of previous ODNR staff without specific criteria for inclusion.

Recognizing a need for more up-to-date information to ensure proper identification and protection of high-quality wetlands, Ohio EPA, in consultation with a workgroup of wetland experts, has developed the following criteria for identifying these kinds of wetlands:

- The area is mapped on the NWI as emergent, scrub-shrub or forested – no open water habitats were included;
- The mapped wetland must be five acres in size or larger;
- At least a portion of the wetland is within the Ducks Unlimited's conservation and recreation lands (CARL) layer (Ducks Unlimited, 2008) or otherwise known to be protected by the State or another conservation organization; and
- There is evidence of high quality functions based on existing data including, but not limited to, NHD records of threatened or endangered species (ODNR, 2016) and/or Ohio EPA has determined the wetland to be Category 3 based on an Agency-approved assessment methodology such as ORAM (Mack, 2001), VIBI (Mack and Gara, 2015), VIBI-FQ (Gara, 2013) and/or Amph-IBI (Miccachion, 2011) data.

A total of 220 wetlands that meet the above criteria were identified. NWI Polygons that abut one another were joined together as a single wetland polygon and, in a few instances, NWI polygons that are not abutting one another were combined where a high degree of hydrologic interaction is likely based on aerial imagery interpretation (OSIP 2006-2007), topography and NRCS soil survey. In these instances, it is assumed that the wetland polygons would be considered within the same hydrogeomorphic classification and would be scored within a single scoring boundary using ORAM. Of the high-quality wetlands identified, 162 (73.6 percent) have not been assessed by Ohio EPA, but are identified in the NHD to be high-quality based on the presence of at least one threatened or endangered species; 19 wetlands (8.6 percent) have been determined by Ohio EPA to be category 3 wetlands using one of the above-mentioned methods; and 39 (17.7 percent) wetlands are considered to be high-quality wetlands based on both Ohio EPA categorical assessment and because of the recorded presence of at least one threatened or endangered species. A list of high-quality wetlands is included in Table I-1.

I1.2 Significant Wetland Areas

Ohio EPA also attempted to identify significant wetlands and wetland complexes. Many of these areas are included in the high-quality wetlands list described in Section I1.1 above; however, size was the main criterion used to determine whether an area should be included on the significant wetland area list. Ohio EPA analyzed NWI polygons, aerial imagery and topographic maps to identify wetlands and wetland complexes that likely have a high degree of hydrologic interaction. Generally only areas which exceed 300 acres of mapped NWI wetlands are included in this list. The lone exception is Cedar Bog (approximately 296 acres) in Champaign County. A list of significant wetland areas is included in Table I-2.

I1.3 Next Steps

Ohio EPA proposes that periodic Level 2 and Level 3 field assessments be conducted on a random selection of wetlands within targeted HUC12 watersheds on a rotating basin schedule, like what is currently being done with Ohio EPA stream assessments. It is the recommendation of the WEG that the assessments focus on significant wetland areas and high-quality wetlands that lack prior assessment data. Focusing on these areas will potentially give an understanding of wetland condition within the HUC12. Issues such as property access and staff resources will dictate the number of watersheds that can be surveyed, but as the number of field assessed HUC12s increases, a better understanding of the relationship between the Level 1 and Level 2/Level 3 characterizations will be illustrated. This understanding will be critical to the continued improvements to our ability to assess the ecological condition of wetlands using remotely-sensed, landscape-level GIS data. Current staffing resource issues have prevented us from expanding the ecological monitoring program to include regular watershed-scale wetland surveys at this time and in the foreseeable future.

Table I-1 — List of high-quality wetland areas.

Site Name	Reason	Owner	Owner Type	Size (Acres)
Abshire And Graves Scenic River Area	NHD	ODNR	State	20
Akron Watershed Land	Cat 3/NHD	City of Akron	Local	5,013
Aquilla Lake WA	NHD	ODNR	State	673
Aquilla Lake	Cat 3	Private	Private	410
Arcola Creek	Cat 3/NHD	Lake County Metroparks	Local	30
Area K	Cat 3	ODNR	State	20
Arthur W Youngblood Watershed Area	NHD	City of Akron	Local	36
Ashcroft Preserve	NHD	Grand River Partners, Inc.	Private	516
ATV	Cat 3	Columbus and Franklin County Metro Parks	Local	9
Aurora Sanctuary NP	NHD	Audubon Society of Greater Cleveland	NGO	44
Aurora Wetlands II	NHD	Summit County Metro Parks	Local	30
Avoca Park	NHD	Great Parks of Hamilton County	Local	19
Baker Swamp	Cat 3/NHD	The Nature Conservancy	NGO	68
Bass Lake	NHD	Western Reserve Land Conservancy	Private	149
Bass Lake Preserve	NHD	Geauga County Park District	Private	22
Bath Nature Preserve	NHD	Bath Township	Local	6
Battaglia	NHD	Portage County Park District	Local	27
Battelle Darby Creek Metro	NHD	Columbus and Franklin County Metro Parks	Local	48
Bay Point	NHD	Natural Areas Land Conservancy	NGO	13
Beach City WA	NHD	ODNR	State	27
Beaumont Scout Reservation	NHD	Boy Scouts of America	NGO	266
Beaver Creek Preserve Easement	NHD	Beavercreek Wetlands Association	NGO	104
Beaver Creek SP	NHD	ODNR	State	24
Beaver Creek WA	NHD	ODNR	State	279
Beck Fen	NHD	The Nature Conservancy	NGO	147
Bedford Reservation	NHD	Cleveland Metroparks	Local	222
Berlin Lake WA	NHD	ODNR	State	328
Betsch Fen	NHD	The Nature Conservancy	NGO	26
Big Creek Reservation	NHD	Cleveland Metroparks	Local	20
Big Island WA	NHD	ODNR	State	1,160
Big Swamp Woods	Cat 3/NHD	Cleveland Museum of Natural History	Local	83
Bradley Woods Reservation	Cat 3/NHD	Cleveland Metroparks	Local	112
Browns Lake Bog	Cat 3/NHD	The Nature Conservancy	NGO	60
Buck Creek SP	NHD	ODNR	State	63

Site Name	Reason	Owner	Owner Type	Size (Acres)
Burton Wetlands	Cat 3/NHD	Geauga Park District	County	9
Cackley Swamp	NHD	Appalachia Ohio Alliance	NGO	307
Calamus	Cat 3	Columbus Audubon Society	NGO	9
Campbell SNP	NHD	ODNR	State	49
Canal Corridor	NHD	Stark County Parks	County	66
Cascade Valley Park	NHD	Summit County Metro Parks	County	6
Cedar Bog NP	Cat 3/NHD	Ohio Historical Society	State	244
Cedar Point National Wildlife Refuge	Cat 3/NHD	U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service	Federal	1,853
Charles Mill Lake	NHD	Muskingum Watershed Conservancy District	Local	619
Chesterfield Swamp (Gleeson Family Nature Reserve)	NHD	Morrow County Park District	County	44
City of Ravenna Park	NHD	City of Ravenna	Local	67
Clark Lake WA	NHD	ODNR	State	21
Collier SNP	Cat 3	ODNR	State	21
Conneaut Township Park	NHD	Conneaut Township	Local	64
Conneaut WA	NHD	ODNR	State	24
Cooper Hollow WA	NHD	ODNR	State	94
Cooperrider/Kent Bog SNP	Cat 3/NHD	ODNR	State	82
Cranberry Bog NP	NHD	ODNR	State	13
Crystal Lake	NHD	The Nature Conservancy	NGO	25
Culberson Woods SNP	Cat 3	ODNR	State	29
Daubel	NHD	Black Swamp Conservancy	Private	109
Davenport Pond and Wetlands	NHD	Appalachia Ohio Alliance	NGO	6
Delaware WA	NHD	ODNR	State	79
Dickason Run Swamp	NHD	Ohio Valley Conservation Coalition	NGO	47
E. Frohring	NHD	Western Reserve Land Conservancy (Easement)	Private	17
Eagle Creek NP	Cat 3	ODNR	State	358
East Harbor SP	NHD	ODNR	State	124
Edge of Appalachia	NHD	Cincinnati Museum of Natural History	Local	64
Eldon Russell Park	NHD	City of Akron	Local	40
Farley Property	NHD	Geauga County Park District	County	498
Firestone Metro Park	NHD	Summit County Metro Parks	County	109
Firestone/Yeagley WA	NHD	ODNR	State	81
Fish Creek WA	NHD	ODNR	State	53
Flatiron Lake Bog	NHD	The Nature Conservancy	NGO	37
Forrest Woods Nature Preserve	Cat 3/NHD	Black Swamp Conservancy	NGO	20
Fowler Woods NP	Cat 3	ODNR	State	48
Franklin Township Marsh	NHD	Ohio Valley Conservation Coalition	NGO	8
Furnace Run Park	NHD	Summit County Metro Parks	County	15
Gallagher/Springfield Fen SNP	NHD	ODNR	State	9
Garlo Heritage Nature Preserve	NHD	Seneca County Park District	County	40
Geneva SP	NHD	ODNR	State	25
Geneva Swamp	NHD	Cleveland Museum of Natural History	Local	285
Glade Wetland	NHD	The Nature Conservancy	NGO	7
Goll Woods SNP	NHD	ODNR	State	64
Goodyear	Cat 3	ODNR	State	77
Goodyear Heights Metro Park	NHD	Summit County Metro Parks	County	25
Gott Fen NP	Cat 3/NHD	ODNR	State	49
Grand River WA	NHD	ODNR	State	1,695

Site Name	Reason	Owner	Owner Type	Size (Acres)
Grand River Terraces	Cat 3	Cleveland Museum of Natural History	NGO	105
Gray Birch Bog	NHD	Western Reserve Land Conservancy	NGO	16
Greendale Buttonbush	Cat 3	U.S. Forest Service	Federal	9
Griggs Reservoir Park	Cat 3	City of Columbus Parks and Recreation	Local	9
Hambden Orchard WA	NHD	ODNR	State	358
Hampton Hills Metro Park	NHD	Summit County Metro Parks	County	28
Harper Valley Preserve, Inc.	NHD	Grand River Partners, Inc.	Private	19
Harris Nature Preserve 1999	NHD	Black Swamp Conservancy	Private	179
Headlands Beach SP	NHD	ODNR	State	10
Herrick Fen	Cat 3/NHD	The Nature Conservancy	NGO	48
Hertrick	NHD	Grand River Partners, Inc.	Private	6
Hess	NHD	Western Reserve Land Conservancy	NGO	122
Highland Heights Park	NHD	City of Highland Heights	Local	6
Highlandtown WA	NHD	ODNR	State	14
Hinckley Reservation	NHD	Cleveland Metroparks	Local	98
Holden Arboretum	NHD	Holden Arboretum	Private	33
Honey Point WA	NHD	ODNR	State	11
I-480 Preserve	NHD	Western Reserve Land Conservancy	NGO	18
Indian Creek WA	NHD	ODNR	State	52
Irwin Prairie SNP	Cat 3/NHD	ODNR	State	213
Jackson Bog NP	NHD	ODNR	State	18
Jackson Lake SP	NHD	ODNR	State	101
Kendrick Woods NP	NHD	ODNR	State	31
Killbuck Marsh WA	Cat 3/NHD	ODNR	State	4,169
Killdeer Plains WA	Cat 3/NHD	ODNR	State	670
Kinnikinnick Fen	NHD	Ross County Park District	County	19
Kiser Lake SP	NHD	ODNR	State	23
Kitty Todd	Cat 3/NHD	The Nature Conservancy	NGO	302
Kuehnle WA	NHD	ODNR	State	12
Lake Katherine SNP	NHD	ODNR	State	40
Lake La Su An WA	NHD	ODNR	State	145
Lake Park	NHD	Coshocton City & County Park District	Local	19
Lake Rockwell	NHD	City of Akron	Local	106
Lakeshore Reservation	NHD	Lake County Metroparks	Local	6
Lawrence Woods NP	Cat 3/NHD	ODNR	State	14
Liberty/Owens Fen NP	Cat 3/NHD	ODNR	State	58
Little Portage WA	NHD	ODNR	State	281
Little Rocky Hollow NP	NHD	ODNR	State	7
Little Darby Terrace	Cat 3	ODNR	State	8
Magee Marsh WA	Cat 3/NHD	ODNR	State	1,968
Mallard Club Marsh WA	NHD	ODNR	State	389
Mantua Bog NP	NHD	ODNR	State	44
Marsh Wetlands WA/NP	Cat 3/NHD	ODNR	State	132
Maumee Bay SP	NHD	ODNR	State	160
Maumee SF	NHD	ODNR	State	260
McCracken Fen SNP	NHD	ODNR	State	52
Mentor Marsh NP	NHD	ODNR	State	798
Mercer WA	NHD	ODNR	State	48
Metzger Marsh WA	NHD	ODNR	State	703
Miami Whitewater Forest	NHD	Hamilton County Park District	County	38
Milan WA	NHD	ODNR	State	55

Site Name	Reason	Owner	Owner Type	Size (Acres)
Mill Creek Park	NHD	Mill Creek Metroparks	County	356
Mill Hollow - Bacon Woods Park	NHD	Lorain County Metro Parks	County	370
Mill Stream Run Reservation - 1-71 Parcel	NHD	Cleveland Metroparks	Local	369
Mogadore Reservoir	NHD	City of Akron	Local	49
Mohawk Reservoir	NHD	Muskingum Watershed Conservancy District	Local	14
Morgan Swamp	Cat 3/NHD	The Nature Conservancy	NGO	589
Mosquito Creek WA	Cat 3/NHD	ODNR	State	1,431
Mud Lake Bog SNP	Cat 3/NHD	ODNR	State	26
Museum Lands	NHD	Cleveland Museum of Natural History	Local	75
Muzzy Lake (East)	NHD	City of Ravenna	Local	20
Myersville Fen NP	NHD	ODNR	State	12
North Fork Wetlands	NHD	Western Reserve Land Conservancy	Private	31
North Pond NP	Cat 3/NHD	ODNR	State	19
Northeast Ohio Wetlands, Inc.	NHD	Grand River Partners, Inc.	Private	34
O'Shaughnessy Reservoir Park	Cat 3	City of Columbus	Local	12
Oak Openings Preserve Metropark	Cat 3/NHD	Metroparks of the Toledo Area	Local	23
Observatory Park	NHD	Geauga County Park District	Local	822
Old Woman Creek NERR/NP	Cat 3/NHD	ODNR	State	87
Orwell WA	NHD	ODNR	State	152
Ottawa National Wildlife Refuge	NHD	U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service	Federal	500
Oxbow Lake WA	NHD	ODNR	State	17
Pallister SNP	Cat 3/NHD	ODNR	State	61
Parkersburg WA	NHD	ODNR	State	109
Pater WA	NHD	ODNR	State	7
Pennline Bog	NHD	Cleveland Museum of Natural History	Local	199
Pickerel Creek WA	NHD	ODNR	State	832
Pipe Creek WA	NHD	ODNR	State	66
Poland Village Park	NHD	Village of Poland	Local	135
Pond Brook Conservation Area	Cat 3/NHD	Summit County Metro Parks	County	483
Portage Lakes SP	NHD	ODNR	State	249
Portage Lakes Wetlands NP	NHD	ODNR	State	26
Prairie Oaks Metropark	NHD	Columbus and Franklin County Metro Parks	Local	8
Prairie Road Fen NP	Cat 3/NHD	ODNR	State	11
Price Road Swamp	NHD	City of Akron	Local	207
Punderson SP	NHD	ODNR	State	42
Putnam Marsh	NHD	Erie Metroparks	Local	281
Pymatuning Creek Wetlands NP	NHD	ODNR	State	610
Pymatuning SP	NHD	ODNR	State	121
Ravenna Arsenal	NHD	USA	Federal	636
Ray	NHD	Geauga County Park District	Local	83
Resthaven WA	Cat 3/NHD	ODNR	State	1,096
Rocky River Reservation	NHD	Cleveland Metroparks	County	162
Rome SNP	NHD	ODNR	State	279
Rutherford	Cat 3	U.S. Forest Service	Federal	19
Salt Fork SP	NHD	ODNR	State	1,225
Salt Fork WA	NHD	ODNR	State	122
School Lands	NHD	Ravenna City School District	NGO	132
Secor Metropark	NHD	Metroparks of the Toledo Area	County	50

Site Name	Reason	Owner	Owner Type	Size (Acres)
Seneca Lake	NHD	Muskingum Watershed Conservancy District	Local	38
Shawnee Lookout	NHD	Great Parks of Hamilton County	County	7
Shawnee SF	NHD	ODNR	State	137
Sheldon Marsh NP	Cat 3/NHD	ODNR	State	412
Shenango WA	Cat 3/NHD	ODNR	State	3,539
Showalter Bog	NHD	Portage County Park District	County	15
Silver Creek Fen	NHD	Western Reserve Land Conservancy	NGO	14
Singer Lake Bog	Cat 3/NHD	The Nature Conservancy	NGO	94
Slate Run Metropark	Cat 3	Columbus and Franklin County Metro Parks	Local	24
Spring Valley WA	NHD	ODNR	State	107
Springville Marsh NP	Cat 3/NHD	ODNR	State	233
Suawa	NHD	Grand River Partners, Inc.	Private	34
Sumner on Ridgewood	Cat 3	Concordia of Ohio (Easement)	Private	22
Swamp Cottonwood SNP	Cat 3	ODNR	State	5
Tinkers Creek NP	Cat 3/NHD	ODNR	State	473
Towner's Woods	NHD	Portage County Park District	County	16
Township Lands	NHD	Oberlin College	Local	16
Triangle Lake Bog NP	NHD	ODNR	State	68
Tummonds NP	NHD	ODNR	State	135
Twinsburg Bog	NHD	Western Reserve Land Conservancy	NGO	72
Tycoon Lake WA	NHD	ODNR	State	67
Urbana Raised Bog	NHD	Champaign County Fairgrounds	County	14
USFWS Ottawa National Wildlife Refuge	NHD	U.S. Forest Service	Federal	2,391
USFWS Ottawa National Wildlife Refuge Navarre Division	NHD	U.S. Forest Service	Federal	413
Veteran's Memorial Park	NHD	Lake County Metroparks	County	27
Walnut Beach Park	NHD	City of Ashtabula	Local	63
Waterloo WA	NHD	ODNR	State	153
Wayne National Forest	Cat 3/NHD	U.S. Forest Service	Federal	856
West Branch Copperbelly Site	NHD	Boy Scouts of America	NGO	60
West Woods	NHD	Geauga County Park District	County	155
Westwinds Woods	NHD	Metroparks of the Toledo Area	Local	37
Wildlife Habitat Restoration Program Chamberlain	NHD	ODNR	State	38
Willard Marsh WA	Cat 3/NHD	ODNR	State	775
Willow Point WA	NHD	ODNR	State	299
Wills Creek Reservoir	Cat 3	Muskingum Watershed Conservancy District	Local	9
Yellow Creek SF	NHD	ODNR	State	9
Yoctangee Park and Annex	NHD	City of Chillicothe	Private	14
Zaleski SF	Cat 3/NHD	ODNR	State	726

Table I-1 Key			
HQW	High Quality Wetland	SF	State Forest
NERR	National Estuarine Research Reserve	SNP	State Nature Preserve
NGO	Non-governmental organization	SP	State Park
NHD	Natural Heritage Database	SW	Significant Wetland
NP	Nature Preserve	USFWS	U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
NWR	National Wildlife Refuge	WA	Wildlife Area
ODNR	Ohio Department of Natural Resources	WEG	Wetland Ecology Group

Table I-2 — List of significant wetland areas.

Site Name	Size (acres)
Akron Watershed Land	6,303
Andover Township Wetlands	405
Ashtabula Wetlands	495
Atwater Wetlands	1,039
Auburn Wildlife Area	519
Bates Creek Wetland	1,008
Beach City Reservoir Wetlands	1,114
Beach City Wildlife Area	1,741
Big Island Wildlife Area /Little Scioto	1,713
Black Fork Mohican River Wetlands	1,045
Boggs Fork Wetlands	869
Bolivar Reservoir	722
Bridge Creek Wetland	604
Bristol Township Wetland	662
Cackley Swamp	413
Cambridge Wetlands	3,234
Canal Fulton Wetlands	1,152
Cedar Bog	296
Cedar Point Wildlife Area/Maumee Bay State Park	2,434
Charles Mill Lake	832
Chippewa Lake	568
Crooked Creek Wetland	990
Deacon Creek Corner Wetland	1,034
Deerfield Wetlands	851
Denmark Township Wetland	702
Dillon Wildlife Area/Dillon State Park	1,608
Dorset Wildlife Area	1,702
Dover Reservoir Wetlands	998
Eagle Creek Wildlife Area	2,181
Flatrock Creek Riparian	1,759
Fox Lake Wetlands	418
Friday Creek Wetland	1,008
Funk Bottoms Wildlife Area	2,545
Geauga Park District Rookery Wetland	636
Geneva State Park	422
Grand River Wildlife Area	11,030
Griggs Mill Creek Wetland	330
Hambden Orchard Wildlife Area	1,866
Indian Lake Inlet Wetlands	785
Jerome Fork Wetlands	399
Killbuck Creek	2,218
Killbuck Marsh Wildlife Area	5,046
Kiwanis Lake Wetlands	437
Lake Luna Wetlands	1,041
Lennox Center Wetlands	1,131
Linton Road Wetland	1,213
Little Portage River Wetlands	1,086
Magee/Metzger/Ottawa National Wildlife Refuge (West)	5,412
Marrian Road Wetland	617
Mecca Township Wetland	609

Site Name	Size (acres)
Mentor Marsh State Nature Preserve	869
Mill Creek Wetland	1,527
Mogadore Reservoir Wetlands	1,070
Monroe Center Wetlands	438
Montville Township Wetland	1,506
Morgan Swamp State Nature Preserve	747
Mosquito Creek (Warren) Wetlands	863
Mosquito Creek Wildlife Area	4,276
Moxley/Smith/Sanford/Other Private Clubs	1,211
Muskingum River (Dresden) Wetlands	1,270
New Lyme Wildlife Area	981
North Bend Road Wetlands	626
Oak Openings - Irwin Prairie	1,086
Ohio Brush Creek Wetlands	476
Orwell Wetlands	1,063
Ottawa National Wildlife Refuge (Central)/Toussaint Shooting Club/Other	3,138
Ottawa National Wildlife Refuge (Navarre)	848
Phelps Road Wetland	3,143
Plymouth Township Wetland	1,224
Pond Brook	1,230
Potter Creek Wetlands	712
Pritchard Wetlands	409
Raccoon Creek (Wellston) Wetlands	1,123
Raccoon State Forest Wetlands	749
Racoon Creek/Zaleski State Forest/Lake Hope State Park	1,374
Ray State Line Road Wetlands	480
Resthaven Wildlife Area	1,309
Richmond Center Wetland	816
Rittman Wetland	826
Rome State Nature Preserve	1,256
Salt Fork Wetlands	1,102
Sandyville Wetlands	1,648
Shedd Road Wetland	808
Sheffield Center Wetland	1,687
Sheldon's Marsh	923
Shenango Wildlife Area	4,999
Sixteen Valley Wetlands	464
Skull Fork Wetlands	468
Spring Pond Wetland	530
St. Mary's River Riparian	2,617
Stillwater Creek Wetlands	714
Symmes Creek Wetlands	1,328
Trumbull Creek Wetlands	764
Twitchell Road Wetlands	405
Upstream East Branch Reservoir	1,220
West Branch Huron River Wetlands	2,220
West Branch Mahoning River Wetland	1,162
Willard Marsh Wildlife Area	1,240
Willow Creek Wetlands	378
Willow Point	316
Wills Creek Reservoir/Conesville Coal	2,564

Site Name	Size (acres)
Windham Wetlands	897
Winous Point Shooting Club/Ottawa Shooting Club/Pickerel Creek Wildlife Area	9,358
Wolf Creek Wetlands	753
Yankee Run Wetlands	876
Champion Township Wetlands	533
Wildare Wetlands	564
Lake Cardinal Area Wetlands	359

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I2. Mercury Reduction at Ohio EPA

Mercury is a persistent bioaccumulative toxic metal that is widely used in many products. Once mercury is released into the environment its toxicity, persistence and ability to travel up the food chain are important issues for human health and the environment. Ohio has a statewide health advisory for mercury from fish consumption for sensitive populations: women of childbearing age; and children 15 years old or younger (issued by the Ohio Department of Health).

U.S. EPA is allowing states to identify waters for a special 303(d) list category devoted to mercury issues (5M). While moving in this direction would be preferable as a way to focus on this important pollutant, Ohio EPA has decided that such a move is not possible for this report. At the same time, Ohio EPA is taking action to decrease mercury pollution and these efforts are summarized here.

I2.1 Ohio Law

House Bill 443 was made law on Jan. 4, 2007. The law has the mercury product regulations created initially in House Bill 583 and Senate Bill 323, establishing sales bans for certain mercury products. Public and private schools through high school were not to purchase mercury, mercury compounds or mercury-measuring devices for classroom use as of April 6, 2007. Mercury thermometers and mercury-containing novelty items were not to be sold in Ohio as of Oct. 6, 2007. The sale of novelty items that have mercury cell button batteries were banned as of 2011. Mercury thermostats were not to be sold or installed as of April 6, 2008. There are exemptions to the sales bans.

I2.2 Ohio Projects

Ohio EPA has worked in several areas seeking to reduce mercury emissions and increase awareness:

- identification of air sources of mercury, including identification of water bodies in the State impaired by mercury predominantly from atmospheric deposition, potential emissions sources contributing to deposition in the State and adoption of appropriate State-level programs to address in-state sources;
- identification of other potential multi-media sources of mercury, such as mercury in products and wastes and adoption of appropriate State-level programs (note that mercury-containing products may be a source of mercury to the air and other media during manufacturing, use or disposal);
- quantifying multi-media mercury reductions achieved by scrubber systems installed at Ohio power plants in response to a lawsuit filed by several northeastern states;
- adoption of statewide mercury reduction goals and targets, including percent reduction and dates of achievement, for air and other sources of mercury, as well as reduction targets for specific categories of mercury sources where possible;
- multi-media mercury monitoring, including water quality, air deposition and air emissions monitoring;

- publicly-owned treatment works with mercury variances implement Pollutant Minimization Programs to identify and reduce sources of mercury that discharge to their plants[1].
- investigating mercury in various types of wastewater, including:
  - primary materials industries, including primary metal production, oil refining and coal facilities;
  - facilities processing steel scrap (continuous casting and steel foundries);
  - publicly-owned treatment works, which looks at indirectly discharging industries through the pretreatment program and facility Pollutant Minimization Plan;
  - coal power plant wastewater from scrubbers, ash ponds and "Low Volume" wastewaters; and
  - other industries in interactive allocation segments to get an accurate accounting of mercury in the segments.
- working to control discharges from the state's one mercury cell sodium/chlorine plant[2].
- coordination across states, where possible, such as multi-State mercury reduction programs. Ohio EPA has had representatives in several organizations that work toward this goal.

I2.3 Ohio Resources

Many videos, fact sheets and presentations are available on Ohio EPA's website that relate to mercury. These include household mercury fact sheets; an introduction to mercury issues; a guide for dealing with mercury by school administrators; an informational sheet for building awareness of mercury in schools; information about mercury in industry; and suggestions for developing a community mercury reduction program. See ***epa.ohio.gov/ocapp/p2/mercury_pbt/mercury.aspx*** for more information.

I2.4 Federal Rules

In 2017, U.S. EPA finalized technology-based pretreatment standards under the Clean Water Act to reduce discharges of mercury and other metals from dental offices into municipal sewage treatment plants known as publicly owned treatment works (POTWs). Ohio EPA is responsible for ensuring the rule is implemented. The rule requires dental offices to comply with requirements based on the American Dental Association's recommended practices, including the use of amalgam separators. Once captured by the separator, dental amalgam can be recycled. Removing mercury when it is concentrated and easy to manage, such as through low-cost amalgam separators at dental offices (average annual cost per dental office in 2016 is about $800), is a common-sense solution to managing mercury that would otherwise be released to air, land and water. You can find this rule and supporting documents at U.S. EPA's website: ***epa.gov/eg/dental-effluent-guidelines***.

I3. Inland Lakes and Reservoirs

Ohio EPA initiated a renewed monitoring effort for inland lakes in 2008. This report assesses three of the four beneficial uses that apply to inland lakes: recreation; public drinking water supply; and human health (via fish tissue). Ohio EPA is in the process of updating the water quality standards rules for lakes. Once these rule updates are complete, Ohio EPA expects to include an assessment of the aquatic life use for lakes as a factor in listing watershed or large river assessment units (LRAUs) in future CWA Section 303(d) lists.

[1] The facilities track implementation of mercury reduction measures and monitor influent and effluent mercury levels. They facilities compile reduction information and submit annual progress reports to Ohio EPA.

[2] The current consent order includes reducing fugitive air emissions that have contributed to storm water discharges of mercury. The plant will be scrubbing cell emissions with water and sending those discharges to the plant's zero discharge process treatment system. The consent order also requires the company to track mercury mass balances through the facility and recycle where possible. This includes using collected storm water as process water make-up.

This section outlines the status of the monitoring effort for inland lakes; summarizes needed administrative rule changes; and previews a potential methodology for assessing the lake habitat aquatic life use in future 303(d) lists. The section was first introduced in 2010 and has not changed appreciably since then because the administrative rule changes have not yet occurred. Ohio EPA intends to continue monitoring inland lakes and reporting results in future cycles.

I3.1 Background of Ohio's Inland Lake Water Quality Monitoring Program

Ohio EPA's work to assess lakes began in 1989 with a CWA Section 314 Lake Water Quality Assessment grant that supported the evaluation of 52 lakes. Various additional grants enabled the evaluation of 89 more lakes through 1995. An analysis and determination of beneficial use status for 447 public lakes (greater than five acres in surface area) was presented in Volume 3 of the 1996 Ohio Water Resource Inventory [305(b) report]. As part of that report, Ohio EPA developed and applied the Lake Condition Index (LCI) to characterize overall lake health and to assess beneficial use status.

After dedicated U.S. EPA funding for lakes monitoring ended, Ohio EPA monitored only 53 lakes over the next 10 years. The Ohio LCI, developed by Ohio EPA between 1990 and 1996 to report on the status of lake condition, became obsolete with the passage of Ohio's Credible Data Law [House Bill 43 (amended), effective 10/21/2003]. This law requires that decisions on impairment for all surface waters (streams, lakes wetlands) be based solely on Level 3 credible data. Ohio's original LCI assessment process included a combination of Level 2 and Level 3 credible data to make impairment decisions.

Ohio EPA began researching ways to re-establish an inland lakes monitoring program in 2005. During the 2007 field season, Ohio EPA participated in the U.S. EPA-sponsored National Lakes Assessment (NLA). Ohio was assigned 19 lakes that were selected through a probability-based random selection process. The effort served as a precursor for a renewed lake sampling program in Ohio.

I3.2 Status of Inland Lakes Program

Ohio EPA currently monitors select inland lakes using the strategy described in Section 13.2.1 below. Priority is being placed on lakes used for public drinking water or used heavily for recreation and suspected of being impaired for either of those uses. Secondary priorities still on the horizon because of limited resources include developing a more robust sampling program, expanding to a wider variety of lakes, exploring the use of remote sensing in the screening of water quality in lakes and attempting to track water quality changes in lakes that might be subject to Section 319 funding and other watershed water quality improvement efforts. The objectives for monitoring inland lakes are to:

- Track status and trends of lake quality
- Determine attainment status of beneficial uses
- Identify causes and sources of impaired uses
- Recommend actions for improving water quality in impaired lakes

In this report, Ohio EPA discusses lake use impairment for recreation, public drinking water and human health (fish tissue) and previews a methodology for including inland lakes in the aquatic life use listing. The aquatic life use listing is dependent on the rule changes to Ohio's water quality standards, which include adoption of nutrient criteria. Once the criteria are adopted into Ohio's water quality standards rules, Ohio EPA expects to be able to definitively report on the status of the aquatic life use of lakes sampled through 2016.

I3.2.1 Lake Sampling – Lake Habitat Aquatic Life Use Assessment

Ohio EPA has implemented a sampling strategy that focuses on evaluating the water quality conditions present in the epilimnion of lakes. The sampling target consists of an even distribution of a total of 10 sampling events collected during the summer months. Key water quality parameters sampled for inland lake assessments include total phosphorus, total nitrogen, chlorophyll a, Secchi depth, ammonia, dissolved oxygen, pH, total dissolved solids and various metals such as lead, mercury and copper. Details of the sampling protocol are outlined in the Inland Lakes Sampling Procedure Manual, available on Ohio EPA's webpage at: ***epa.ohio.gov/dsw/inland_lakes/index.aspx***.

I3.2.2 Water Quality Standards for the Protection of Aquatic Life in Lakes

Presently, lakes in Ohio are designated as exceptional warmwater habitat (EWH) with respect to the aquatic life habitat use designation. Revisions to Ohio's WQS that would change the aquatic life use from EWH to lake habitat (LH) are in progress. A primary reason for this revision is that in Ohio, a set of biological criteria apply to rivers and streams, whereas no biocriteria apply to lakes. The numeric chemical criteria to protect the LH use will remain the same as the criteria to protect the EWH use (or WWH use where applicable) that currently applies to lakes, with a suite of nutrient criteria added.

The chemical criteria specific to the LH aquatic life use in the water quality standards rules under consideration are depicted in Table I-3.

Table I-3 — Proposed[1] lake habitat use criteria.

Note: All criteria are outside mixing zone averages unless specified differently.

Parameter / Lake type	Form[2]	Units[3]	Statewide criteria	Ecoregional Criteria[4] ECBP	EOLP	HELP	IP	WAP
Ammonia								
All lake types	T	mg/L	Table 35-1	--	--	--	--	--
Chlorophyll a[5]								
Dugout lakes	T	µg/L	6.0	--	--	--	--	--
Impoundments	T	µg/L	--	14.0	14.0	14.0	14.0	6.2
Natural lakes	T	µg/L	14.0	--	--	--	--	--
Upground reservoirs	T	µg/L	6.0	--	--	--	--	--
Dissolved oxygen[6]								
Dugout lakes	T	mg/L	5.0 OMZM	--	--	--	--	--
Impoundments	T	mg/L	5.0 OMZM	--	--	--	--	--
Natural lakes	T	mg/L	5.0 OMZM	--	--	--	--	--
Upground reservoirs	T	mg/L	4.0 OMZM	--	--	--	--	--
Nitrogen[5]								
Dugout lakes	T	µg/L	450	--	--	--	--	--
Impoundments	T	µg/L	--	930	740	930	688	350
Natural lakes	T	µg/L	638	--	--	--	--	--
Upground reservoirs	T	µg/L	1,225	--	--	--	--	--
pH								
All lake types	--	s.u.	A	--	--	--	--	--
Phosphorus[5]								
Dugout lakes	T	µg/L	18	--	--	--	--	--
Impoundments	T	µg/L	--	34	34	34	34	14
Natural lakes	T	µg/L	34	--	--	--	--	--
Upground reservoirs	T	µg/L	18	--	--	--	--	--
Secchi disk transparency[7]								
Dugout lakes	--	m	2.60	--	--	--	--	--
Impoundments	--	m	--	1.19	1.19	1.19	1.19	2.16
Natural lakes	--	m	1.19	--	--	--	--	--
Upground reservoirs	--	m	2.60	--	--	--	--	--
Temperature								
All lake types	--	--	B	--	--	--	--	--

[1] Proposed in draft water quality standards rules, August 2008.

[2] T = total.

[3] m = meters; mg/L = milligrams per liter (parts per million); µg/L = micrograms per liter (parts per billion); s.u. = standard units.

[4] ECBP stands for Eastern Corn Belt Plains; EOLP stands for Erie/Ontario Lake Plain; HELP stands for Huron/Erie Lake Plains; IP stands for Interior Plateau; and WAP stands for Western Allegheny Plateau.

[5] These criteria apply as lake medians from May through October in the epilimnion of stratified lakes and throughout the water column in unstratified lakes.

[6] For dissolved oxygen, OMZM means outside mixing zone minimum with the 5.0 statewide criteria pertaining to EWH and 4.0 to WWH . The dissolved oxygen criteria apply in the epilimnion of stratified lakes and throughout the water column in unstratified lakes.

[7] These criteria apply as minimum values from May through October.

A pH is to be 6.5-9.0, with no change within that range attributable to human-induced conditions.

B At no time shall the water temperature exceed the average or maximum temperature that would occur if there were no temperature change attributable to human activities.

I3.3 Preview of Future Listings

An important distinction between assessment of aquatic life uses of rivers and streams in Ohio versus lakes is that the former relies on biological monitoring and a comparison of those results to the biological criteria as the assessment tool. Ohio does not have biological criteria that apply to lakes. As a result, the assessment methodology for the lake habitat aquatic life use will rely solely on the results of water quality sampling and a comparison of the results to the applicable numeric criteria. This is an obvious and important

difference to the weight-of-evidence approach traditionally used by Ohio EPA for the assessment of rivers and streams.

I3.3.1 Methodology Preview: Lake Habitat Use Assessment

The following protocol is intended to be used to determine the attainment status of the LH aquatic life use in a future IR. This is dependent upon the completion of the WQS rulemaking currently in progress, which provide the foundational components necessary to complete the actual assessment process. The proposed protocol for assessing the LH aquatic life use designation for this preview is outlined as follows:

- Comparison of individual sample concentrations for any parameter sampled to the applicable aquatic life outside mixing zone average (OMZA) numeric criterion. If more than 10 percent of the samples within an assessment period (typically two years) exceed the OMZA numeric criterion, the LH use is impaired.
- Comparison of the ammonia concentrations of the lake samples collected to the LH OMZA numeric criterion. The LH use is impaired if more than 10 percent of the individual samples exceed the OMZA.
- Comparison of the average dissolved oxygen content of the epilimnetic samples of a thermally stratified lake (or samples throughout the water column of an unstratified lake) to the OMZA dissolved oxygen criteria for the LH use designation. If more than 10 percent of the average dissolved oxygen values do not meet the OMZA criterion, the LH use is considered to be impaired.
- Comparison of the median pH value of the epilimnetic samples of a thermally stratified lake (or samples from throughout the water column of an unstratified lake) to the OMZA pH criteria for the LH use designation. If more than 10 percent of the median pH values do not meet the OMZA criterion, the LH use is considered to be impaired.
- Comparison of the median chlorophyll a concentration of the samples collected over the sample period (typically two consecutive summers) to the applicable chlorophyll a criterion for the type of lake and ecoregion in which the lake is located. The LH use is impaired if the median chlorophyll a concentration exceeds the applicable chlorophyll a criterion.
- Total phosphorus, total nitrogen and Secchi depth parameters are used to flag potential impairment of the LH aquatic life use designation. Exceedance of these nutrient criteria is determined in a manner like that described for chlorophyll a. However, exceedances of the criteria for these parameters will trigger listing on the state's "watch list" rather than a determination of use impairment. Lakes listed on the watch list will be factored into the prioritization process for additional monitoring.

I3.3.2 Results

Table I-4 describes the assessment status of the LH aquatic life use designation for 17 lakes sampled by Ohio EPA in 2015-2016 based on the protocol outlined in the previous section.

Table I-4 — Summary of the lake habitat use assessment for lakes sampled in 2015-2016 using the draft assessment methodology described in this section.

Note: Values in red represent an exceedance of criteria resulting in a determination of non-support of the lake habitat aquatic life use designation. Values in yellow represent a watch list designation.

Lake	Eco-region[3]	Lake Type[2]	Lake Habitat Use Status	Proposed Nutrient Criteria				Aquatic Life Criteria[1] (Units are percentages)											
				chl. *A* (µg/L)	t-P (µg/L)	t-N (µg/L)	Secchi (m)	D.O (%)	pH (%)	NH_3 (%)	TDS	As	Hg	Se	Cd	Cr	Cu	Pb	Ni	Zn
				Seasonal Median Values				Percentage of Samples Exceeding the OMZA Criterion											
Delphos (NWDO)	HELP	UP	Watch List	5.85	6.4	2390	1.8	0	0	0	0	0	x	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Van Wert #2 (NWDO)	HELP	UP	Non-Support	25.45	19.5	1000	1.56	10	0	0	0	0	x	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Cambridge Reservoir (SEDO)	WAP	DPI	Non-Support	20.75	17	345	0.87	10	0	0	0	0	x	0	0	0	40	0	0	0
Forked Run Lake (SEDO)	WAP	DPI	Watch List	4.75	9.7	460	1.61	0	0	0	0	0	x	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
New Concord Reservoir (SEDO)	WAP	DPI	Non-Support	11	6.65	510	2.96	0	0	0	0	0	x	0	0	0	10	0	0	0
Salt Fork Reservoir (SEDO)	WAP	DPI	Non-Support	30.95	10.05	525	0.809	0	0	0	0	0	x	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Seneca Lake (SEDO)	WAP	DPI	Non-Support	11.75	7.4	430	1.12	0	0	0	0	0	x	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Veto Lake (SEDO)	WAP	DPI	Non-Support	58.9	19.0	1210	0.425	20	0	0	0	0	x	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Wills Creek Lake* (SEDO)	WAP	DPI	Non-Support	19	13	800	0.24	80	0	0	0	0	x	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Turkey Creek Lake (SWDO)	WAP	DPI	Full Support	5.4	12.0	250	2.3	0	0	0	0	0	x	0	0	0	0	10	0	0
Lake Waynoka (SWDO)	IP	DPI	Non-Support	13.3	19.5	470	1.25	30	0	0	0	0	x	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Waynoka Upground Reservoir (SWDO)	IP	UP	Non-Support	10.8	53.0	620	1.31	60	0	0	0	0	x	0	0	0	100	0	0	0
Waynoka Water Supply Reservoir (SWDO)	IP	DPI	Non-Support	49.9	232.0	1,490	0.43	100	0	0	0	0	x	0	0	0	100	0	0	0

Lake	Eco-region[3]	Lake Type[2]	Lake Habitat Use Status	Proposed Nutrient Criteria				Aquatic Life Criteria[1] (Units are percentages)											
				chl. *A* (µg/L)	t-P (µg/L)	t-N (µg/L)	Secchi (m)	D.O (%)	pH (%)	NH_3 (%)	TDS	As	Hg	Se	Cd	Cr	Cu	Pb	Ni	Zn
Barberton Reservoir (NEDO)	EOLP	DPI	Non-Support	34.5	47.4	840	0.77	0	0	0	0	0	x	0	0	0	0	0	0
Coe Lake (NEDO)	EOLP	DO	Non-Support	6.65	5.2	1080	2.85	30	0	0	0	0	x	0	0	0	20	0	0	0
Crystal Lake (NEDO)	EOLP	NL	Watch List	13.05	5.0	640	2.25	0	0	0	0	0	x	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Wallace Lake (NEDO)	EOLP	DPI	Non-Support	2.95	5.0	800	1.8	30	0	0	0	0	x	0	0	0	0	0	0	0

[1] Represent parameters typically included in a standard lake assessment; additional parameters sampled as necessary.
[2] DPI = impoundment; UP = upground reservoir
[3] ECBP = Eastern Corn Belt Plains; EOLP = Erie/Ontario Lake Plain; WAP = Western Allegheny Plateau; HELP = Huron/Erie Lake Plain

I4. Future Lake Erie Monitoring and Assessment

Ohio EPA recognizes the need to develop a sustainable, long-term plan to monitor Lake Erie, both to support Ohio's water resource and to support assessment of the lake ecosystem objectives identified in the Great Lakes Water Quality Agreement (GLWQA). Long-term monitoring will need to provide data to evaluate water quality trends, assess the effectiveness of remedial and nutrient reduction programs, measure compliance with jurisdictional regulatory programs, identify emerging problems and support implementation of the remedial action plans in Ohio's four Areas of Concern (more information about Areas of Concern is available in Section C1 of this report).

Ohio EPA is currently evaluating the results of the monitoring effort funded by the Great Lakes Restoration Initiative (GLRI) grant and will use the data to develop a cost-effective and sustainable long-term monitoring strategy. Tracking spring phosphorus and summer chlorophyll concentrations at ambient stations on an annual basis will be one component, as will measuring physical profiles at transect locations used to track hypoxia/anoxia in the hypolimnion of the Central Basin. A schedule for biological monitoring of the shoreline assessment units will need to be developed to measure trends in attainment status for future IRs. Decisions regarding the collection of mayfly, phytoplankton, zooplankton and periphyton samples will also need to be made.

For the assessment of algae impacts and attainment of designated uses related to algae, Ohio EPA will continue collaborating with universities and other agencies to determine appropriate monitoring locations, frequencies and parameters, as well as how that data collection can be sustained.

In 2017, Ohio EPA collaborated with researchers from the University of Toledo, Bowling Green State University and the Ohio State University/Stone Laboratory to develop a pilot sampling program for the Ohio portion of the Lake Erie open waters. The locations of the sampling are illustrated in the blue box outlined sites in Figure I-1. These locations were chosen to supplement data being collected at other sites on the map by other parties to provide a more complete representation of the open water status. The other sites on the map are those where data is collected at least two times per month and include the desired parameters (for example, chlorophyll and microcystins).

The researchers at the Ohio State University/Stone Laboratory, University of Toledo and Bowling Green State University have obtained funding to continue to collect the data at the sites shown in Figure I-1, as well as four sites in the Sandusky Bay, for the next two years. They are working with Ohio EPA to ensure the data is credible level 3, with the expectation that it will be used in conjunction with satellite image products from the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) to provide a comprehensive assessment method for algal blooms in the open waters for future 303(d) lists (for example, to include microcystin or other cyanotoxin metrics).

NOAA continues to collect data at seven sites in Ohio water and the Northeast Ohio Regional Sewer District collects data at eight sites in the central basin of the lake. To maximize resources and contribute to a monitoring network that can effectively inform management decisions and provide statistically relevant data, Ohio EPA will continue to collaborate with other state, federal and local partners as well as the universities.

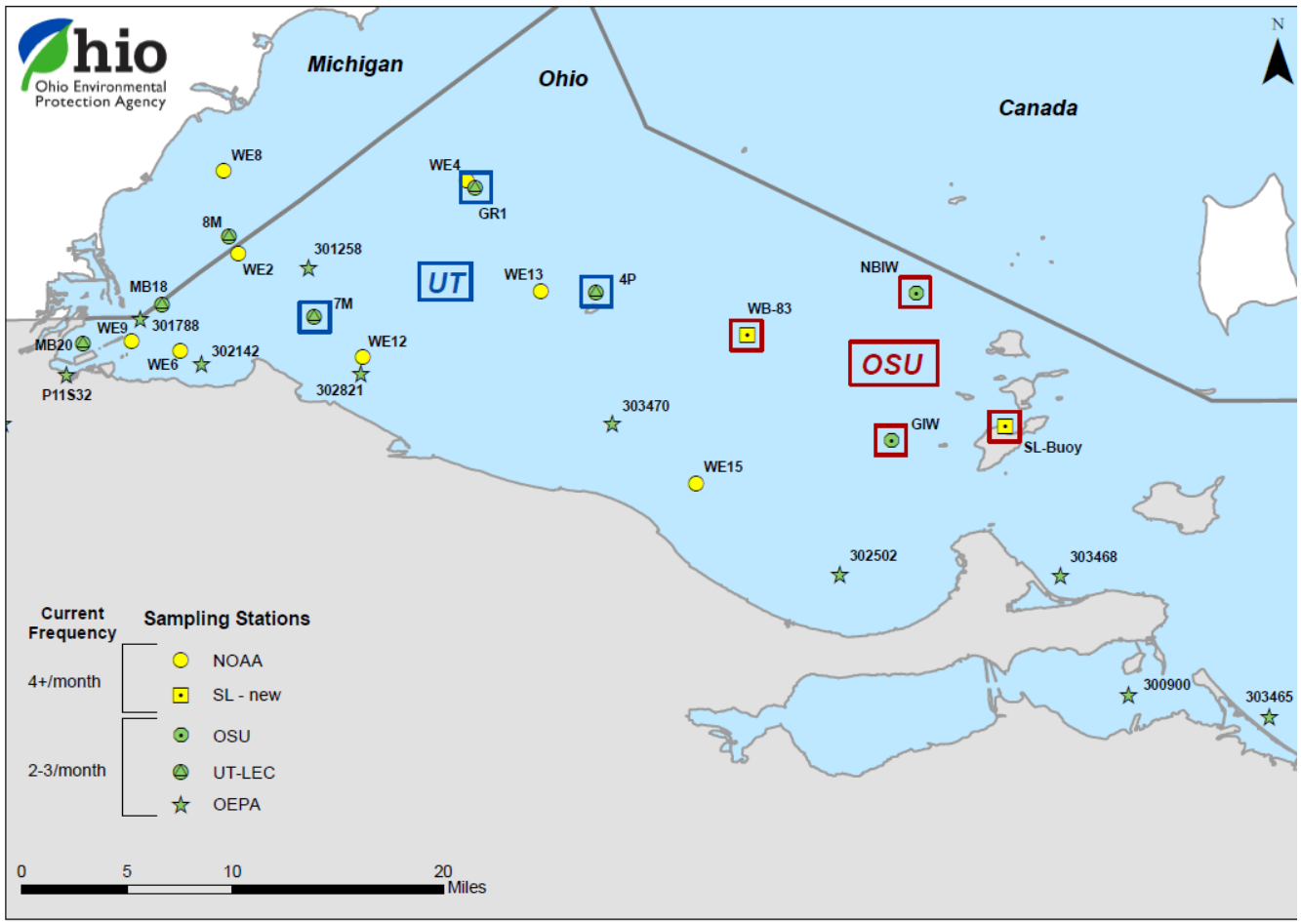

Figure I-1 — Supplemental weekly sampling locations for chlorophyll and microcystin; sampled by University of Toledo and the Ohio State University/Stone Laboratory (boxed sites) researchers in 2017.